

AUGUST 25, 1978

"I HAVE A DREAM" . . . FIFTEEN YEARS LATER  
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: FIFTEEN YEARS AGO (THIS MONDAY, TODAY), AUGUST 28, TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE TOOK PART IN A DEMONSTRATION, A MARCH ON WASHINGTON IN SUPPORT OF BLACK DEMANDS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS A MAJOR EVENT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE IT BROUGHT THE CONCERNS OF SOCIALLY-CONSCIOUS AMERICANS TO THE STREETS OF WASHINGTON. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS A SPEECH BY THE LATE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR -- A SPEECH THAT BECAME THE CLARION CALL FOR ALL CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. WITH EXCERPTS FROM THAT STIRRING SPEECH, AND REACTION FROM SOME OF TODAY'S BLACK LEADERS, HERE IS -----.

NARR: IT WAS A WARM AUGUST DAY. PEOPLE HAD COME TO WASHINGTON FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, FROM SMALL TOWNS AND FROM CROWDED URBAN AREAS. THERE WERE BLACKS AND THERE WERE WHITES. AND THEY GATHERED AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL TO HEAR THEIR MOST REVERED LEADER:

TAPE: CUT ONE. -- KING (LET APPLAUSE RUN, ESTABLISH AND FADE)

"SO EVEN THOUGH WE FACE THE DIFFICULTIES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW, I STILL HAVE A DREAM. IT IS A DREAM DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE AMERICAN DREAM. I HAVE A DREAM THAT ONE DAY THIS NATION WILL RISE UP AND LIVE OUT THE TRUE MEANING OF IT'S CREED: 'WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.'"

NARR: WITH THAT LINE FROM AMERICA'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE -- "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL" -- DOCTOR KING REMINDED ALL AMERICANS OF THEIR SOLEMN OATH. AND WHILE THERE WERE MORE STRUGGLES AHEAD, THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL RIGHTS HAD BEEN OPENLY AND FINALLY PRONOUNCED. THE NATIONAL DISGRACE -

NARR: BLATANT RACISM - WAS REVEALED -- THERE ON THE GROUNDS OF ONE  
CONT'D) OF THE NATION'S PROUDEST MONUMENTS, IN THE STREETS OF IT'S  
CAPITAL CITY. BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST 15 YEARS - TO  
THE PROMISE OF EQUALITY? VOA ASKED BAYARD RUSTIN, A COLLEAGUE  
OF DOCTOR KING, TO REFLECT ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIS FRIEND'S  
DREAM:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- RUSTIN

"THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON WAS TO ASK THE NATION TO GIVE US THE  
RIGHT TO VOTE, TO USE PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS, AND TO SEND  
CHILDREN TO A SCHOOL OF OUR CHOICE. THAT DREAM HAS LARGELY  
BEEN WON. THE NEW DREAM IS A DREAM OF FULL EMPLOYMENT, NOT  
ONLY FOR BLACKS, BUT FOR ALL AMERICANS, INCLUDING ALL  
MINORITIES AND WOMEN."

NARR: MISTER RUSTIN CITES PROGRESS. . . A NEW DREAM - FULL EMPLOYMENT  
- HAS REPLACED THE OLD DREAM - BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS. BUT WHAT  
ABOUT THAT PROGRESS? HOW DO WE REALLY KNOW HOW FAR WE'VE  
COME? BENJAMIN HOOKS, NOW THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, THE OLDEST AND LARGEST  
CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY, PUTS THOSE QUESTIONS  
INTO PERSPECTIVE:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- HOOKS

"THE FACT REMAINS THAT WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS AND WHENEVER  
YOU MAKE PROGRESS THERE ARE ALWAYS TWO QUESTIONS: ONE,  
PROGRESS FROM WHERE YOU CAME CAN BE MEASURED AND THEN PROGRESS  
AGAINST WHERE YOU OUGHT TO BE. AND THIS CREATES THE CENTRAL  
DILEMMA IN AMERICA TODAY. MANY WHITE PEOPLE ARE ONLY  
MEASURING OUR PROGRESS BASED ON WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM.  
MANY OF US IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY MEASURE OUR PROGRESS ON WHERE  
WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAD THERE BEEN NO DISCRIMINATION AND  
RACISM AND PREJUDICE IN THIS COUNTRY. AND THE FACT IS  
WE'RE STILL VERY, VERY FAR BEHIND, BY ANY MEASURE OF  
QUALIFICATION, WE'RE JUST SIMPLY SO FAR BEHIND IT'S  
LUDICROUS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU MEASURE PROGRESS FROM  
WHERE WE STARTED, LET'S SAY IN 1954, 1955, WE'VE COME A  
LONG, LONG WAY."

NARR: AND WHAT WOULD DOCTOR KING THINK OF OUR PROGRESS, IF HE WERE ALIVE TODAY? WE ASKED BAYARD RUSTIN TO SPECULATE:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- RUSTIN

"I THINK DOCTOR KING, IF HE WERE ALIVE, WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED. BUT THE MARVELOUS THING ABOUT DOCTOR KING WAS THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DEMOCRACY WAS NOT A THING, NOR A PLACE, IT WAS A PROCESS, AND THAT THAT PROCESS WILL GO ON SO LONG AS THERE IS A UNITED STATES, BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT COUNTRY ONE IS IN, THERE ARE THINGS WHICH ARE WRONG, WHICH ARE TO BE IMPROVED. AND DOCTOR KING WOULD HAVE BEEN WORKING TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS FOR ALL AMERICANS."

NARR: BUT EVEN IF - AS MISTER RUSTIN SAYS - DOCTOR KING WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH TODAY'S PROGRESS, HE SURELY WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PROCESS CONTINUES. HE LEFT LESSONS THAT TODAY'S LEADERS HAVE LEARNED. THE REVEREND JESSE JACKSON, A PROTEGE OF DOCTOR KING DURING THE EARLY SIXTIES, TODAY HEADS A NEW GROUP - PEOPLE UNITED TO SAVE HUMANITY - OR P-U-S-H - WHICH URGES BLACKS TO SEEK EXCELLENCE, NOT JUST PARITY:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- JACKSON

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"THERE IS A MISSING FACTOR THAT MUST BE DERIVED FROM THE GOVERNED AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT -- THE WILL TO LIVE, THE URGE TO EXCEL. THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT MUST TAKE THIS NATIONAL CATERPILLAR AND TURN IT INTO A BUTTERFLY. WE MUST BREAK OUT OF THE MARSHY MEADOWS OF MEDIOCRITY INTO THE CLEAR PATH OF EXCELLENCE."

NARR: BUT WHATEVER THE LEGACY LEFT BY DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., WHETHER IT BE A NEW DREAM OR THE VITALITY HE INJECTED IN TODAY'S BLACK LEADERS, HIS WORDS ON THAT WARM AUGUST DAY BACK IN 1963 SURELY WILL OUTLAST THE GENERATION THAT HEARD THEM:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- KING (ESTABLISH APPLAUSE AT END, FADE TO TAG)

"I HAVE A DREAM THAT ONE DAY ON THE RED HILLS OF GEORGIA, THE SONS OF FORMER SLAVES AND THE SONS OF FORMER SLAVE-OWNERS WILL BE ABLE TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER AT THE TABLE OF BROTHERHOOD. I HAVE A DREAM THAT ONE DAY, EVEN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, A STATE SWELTERING WITH THE HEAT OF INJUSTICE, SWELTERING WITH THE HEAT OF OPPRESSION, WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO AN OASIS OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER. I HAVE A DREAM TODAY!"

ANNCR: "I HAVE A DREAM" . . . FIFTEEN YEARS LATER -- A SPECIAL VOA  
FEATURE WRITTEN BY DAVID BORGIDA.

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